

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0859

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: HU, PFOR

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN LIBERATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: BUDAPEST 815

1. THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARY (NUMBER 28) OF
LIBERATION OF HUNGARY FROM NAZI GERMANY, APRIL 4, MARKED BY
CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE OF GOOD HUMOR AND SELF ASSURANCE ON
PART HUNGARIAN LEADERSHIP. HIGHLIGHT FROM US POINT OF VIEW
WAS AMBASSADOR'S 15- MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH PARTY BOSS KADAR
DURING APRIL 4 EVENING RECEPTION AT PARLIAMENT. WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER PETER INTERPRETING, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS SATIS-
FACTION AT FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT US- HUNGARIAN RELATIONS,
CLIMAXED BY KADAR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY LAST JULY.
KADAR AGREED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS PROGRESSING FAVORABLY
AND THAT HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY HAD MADE IMPORTANT CONTRI-
BUTION. DESPITE RECURRING RUMORS OF POOR HEALTH, KADAR
LOOKED BETTER THAN LAST SUMMER; PETER ALSO.

2. AMBASSADOR ALSO TALKED WITH PREMIER FOCK, PARTY
ECONOMIC SPOKESMAN NYERS, PETER (BEFORE KADAR INTERVIEW),
NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT LASZLO AND (BRIEFLY) MINISTER OF
TRANSPORTATION CSANADI WHO HAD JUST BEEN AWARDED KOSSUTH
PRIZE.

3. FOCK IN PARTICULARLY GOOD FORM, LIVELY AND JOVIAL, AND
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ENJOYING HIMSELF MUCH MORE THAN KADAR FOR WHOM SUCH PUBLIC OCCASIONS ARE A PAIN. IN TALK WITH PREMIER, AMBASSADOR DROVE HOME IMPORTANCE OF ICCS CONTINGENTS MAKING VIETNAM PEACE MECHANISM WORK. STRESSED SAME THEM TO PETER. BOTH TOOK AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS IN GOOD PART, IN MARKED CONTRAST TO POLEMICAL REACTIONS OF PETER'S HARDLINE DEPUTIES PUJA AND MARJAI (REFTEL).

4. IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR WHEN THEY APPEARED ONLY BRIEFLY, KADAR AND FOCK THIS TIME STAYED UNTIL LAST DOG WAS DEAD. TEN MINUTES AFTER OFFICIAL END OF RECEPTION WITH ONLY A FEW GUESTS STILL PRESENT, NYERS STOOD OFF TO SIDE, OBVIOUSLY WANTING TO LEAVE BUT UNWILLING TO DO SO BEFORE THE BOSS.

5. FOURTH POLITBURO MEMBER WITH WHOM AMBASSADOR TALKED DURING CELEBRATIONS WAS TRADE UNION BOSS SANDOR GASPAR AT APRIL 3 PERFORMANCE AT OPERA.

6. REPEATED FRIENDLY GESTURES OF HUNGARIAN LEADERS TO AMBASSADOR PROBABLY REFLECT SATISFACTION AT SUCCESSFUL VALYI VISIT TO US - VALYI GAVE HIGHLY FAVORABLE REPORT OF VISIT TO POLITBURO.
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